

2006 Accomplishments



Speaking after the close of the 2006 legislative session, I gave a grade of ‘A’ to the accomplishments we were able to achieve. We produced a bipartisan budget with wise investments, broad-based tax relief for individuals and businesses, other economic stimulus provisions, a breakthrough school nutrition initiative and more that is outlined in this newsletter.

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 29TH SENATE DISTRICT

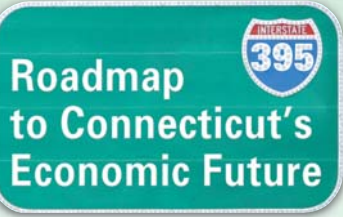
A very important part of my job representing the people of the 29th state Senate District is ensuring Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson and Windham receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$72,630,764
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$1,081,212
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$3,502,827
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$876,258
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$11,850,356
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$1,582,778
Totals	\$91,524,195

This funding is an increase of **\$2,128,221** over last year’s budget

The gridlock that clogs our highways poses a significant threat to Connecticut’s economic future. The General Assembly passed ground-breaking legislation that makes major investments in mass transit and plans for our future transportation infrastructure. This new act provides \$1 billion for targeted transportation projects and commits \$1.3 billion for future projects including:

- Several studies regarding the current state of our infrastructure in Eastern Connecticut and potential new initiatives such as commuter rail service from New London to Worcester
- A state commitment to the Southeastern Connecticut Tourist Transit project currently receiving federal pilot money. This state-of-the-art bus system will serve New London, Norwich, Mystic and major tourist destinations in Southeastern Connecticut
- Incentives to help railroads such as the Providence & Worcester improve their infrastructure and encourage businesses to locate near mass transit options both for their products and their employees
- Support for transit-oriented development and the connection of our deep-water ports to the rest of our transportation system
- Major new services include: creation of the New Haven to Springfield commuter rail, creation of the New Britain to Hartford Busway, and significant improvements to branch lines, rail stations and parking facilities on the New Haven line and Shoreline East



A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit. This will benefit all residents who pay taxes on automobiles or real estate.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Donald E. Williams, Jr.
State Senator, 29th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Williams.html



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you’re interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name: _____

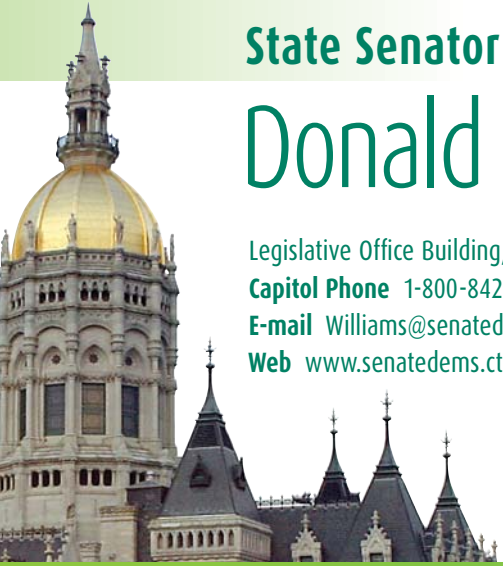
Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

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I’m proud to represent the 29th state Senate District which includes the communities of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson and Windham



CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2006 Legislative Initiatives

I joined with my colleagues to create a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Linking promising new businesses to the university expertise** that can help bring innovative products to market
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Partnerships between local schools and businesses** to help more students master math and science as building blocks to careers in competitive fields and encourage more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **Promoting nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level—to establish Connecticut as a leader in developing complex materials sold to businesses around the world
- **Tax incentives to attract movie companies** to film their productions here in Connecticut



With the help of an increasing budget surplus, we were able to make many improvements to our existing FY '07 budget. And importantly, we were able to pass this budget on time and with bipartisan support. We wisely used state resources to make significant investments in programs beneficial to the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we are funding a cutting-edge economic development program

designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut vital and competitive in the 21st century.

We increased vital aid to cities and towns by \$60 million—an action necessary to help keep local property taxes down; deposited approximately \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund; and fully funded the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY '06 and FY '07 with \$246 million from the state surplus. Finally, one of our greatest achievements in this budget was to fight any efforts to repeal the current property tax credit on the state income tax. In fact, we successfully fought to increase the car and property tax credit from \$400 to \$500.

STATE SENATOR DONALD E. WILLIAMS, JR. 29TH DISTRICT

Working for Connecticut's Future



Recognizing Our Veterans

During the 2006 session, the legislature continued to recognize the service of our brave men and women. New laws

include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income-based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).

Tax Credits for Historic Structures

Our state has many older, historic structures that are now vacant and in desperate need of rehabilitation. We passed legislation that authorizes \$15 million per year in business tax credits for funds spent rehabilitating these properties for residential use. This type of incentive will help restore and beautify these buildings while providing housing and reinvestment to our communities.

Physical Health Needs of Students

Unfortunately, many kids today are not active enough, an issue that has been cited as a factor in the childhood obesity epidemic. A new law requires the state Department of Education to issue guidelines that school boards can use to develop local plans regarding opportunities for exercise at schools and in the community.

Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Due to new legislation we passed this year, we have increased accessibility to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for certain women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.



Access to Imaging Services

Imaging services, such as MRIs and PET scans, are crucial in the diagnosis and proper treatment of certain diseases. However, some insurance companies have set copayments for these services so high that they are cost-prohibitive. A new law will set limits on the copayments that certain patients pay for these services, helping to ensure patients do not forgo these tests because of an inability to pay.



In early June, I participated in a town meeting-style discussion on positive alternatives for youth who are challenged by a world of violence and crime. The meeting was videotaped by Court TV at the Boys Club within the Juvenile Training School in Middletown, and it facilitated an open discussion between young men and community leaders.



Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation,

programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Connecticut's Farms

Trumpeting our Connecticut-grown farm products is excellent publicity for our state. We passed legislation that requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a campaign, including television and radio advertisements, to promote the advantages of purchasing these products. In addition, we expanded the types of products that can be sold at farmers' markets. We also provided funding to UConn to expand their Integrated Pest Management program, which promotes pest control through safe and effective methods and is crucial for crop productivity and quality.

Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases—including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides—in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have a less detrimental impact.

Taking a Stand Against Underage Drinking



House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.

Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools



We listened to Connecticut's parents, nutritionists and physicians and fought to provide our students with healthier food and beverage choices. Senate Democrats led passage of landmark legislation that bans the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. It also provides towns three times as much in school lunch aid from the state if they provide healthier choices for their students. This incentive will promote the better nutrition and healthier lifestyles our kids deserve.